UNEP

CMS

Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

Distr.
LIMITED

UNEP/CMS/1997/L.13
15 April 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

FIFTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

Geneva, 10-16 April 1997

DRAFT RECOMMENDATION 5.3
(submitted by Poland)

DEVELOPMENT OF AN ACTION PLAN FOR THE GREAT CORMORANT IN THE AFRICAN-EURASIAN REGION

Adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its Fifth Meeting (Geneva, 10-16 April 1997)

Recalling that the 1994 meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Bonn Convention (Nairobi) adopted a recommendation on the conservation of the Great Cormorant in the African-Eurasian region;

Noting that Denmark and the Netherlands declared that they were willing to take the initiative for the preparation of an action plan for the Great Cormorant;

Considering that the aim is to draw up such an action plan on the basis of the most recent scientific and other findings, incorporating measures to minimise the conflict between fisheries interests and cormorants populations, and at the same time maintaining a favourable status for the Great Cormorant as required under the Convention;

Considering the results of the international workshop of experts in Lelystad, Netherlands, on 3 and 4 October 1996, where

- a report with the most recent scientific information on the Great Cormorant was discussed,
- the continuing increase of the breeding population of the subspecies *Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis* in some areas and its expanding geographical range were stated and
- management options and their effectiveness were studied;

Considering that this problems should be examined and coordinated at the international level;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

1. Recommends Denmark and the Netherlands to finalize their work on an action plan for the Great Cormorant, focussing initially on the subspecies *Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis*, before the end of 1997;

2. Proposes that the action plan shall include inter alia management guidelines to prevent and/or reduce serious damage caused by *Palacrocorax carbo sinensis* in the fisheries sector while maintaining a favourable conservation status of the species;

3. Invites Denmark and the Netherlands to take the necessary steps, involving all interested Range States, to bring together an international group of experts from the nature conservation and fisheries sectors, to complete the action plan mentioned in no. 6, taking into account the relevant national and international legislation, having regard to the activities of the EIFAC and the Wetlands International working groups;

4. Proposes that the completed action plan be communicated to the Scientific Council of CMS and be distributed to the range states;

5. Recommends that for the purpose of advising on the implementation of the action plan and to facilitate coordination at the international level, an advisory committee of experts will be established as a subgroup reporting to the Scientific Council of the Convention;

6. Recommends that the advisory committee shall include experts from the nature conservation and fisheries sectors. Every interested Range State shall be entiteled to be represented by two such persons;

7. Proposes that the advisory committee, based on the framework of the action plan, which may include a range of control techniques, shall advise on measures to prevent serious damage to fisheries;

8. Proposes that the costs of the national delegations will be borne by the Range States.